# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3716
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
VAJRA Scheme
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**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the challenges faced by the Government in the implementation of the VAJRA scheme;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the difficulties in the implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether there is any improvement in the related indices after the implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is undertaking any other policies for promoting participation of NRIs and overseas scientific community in research and development in India and if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY)

(a) The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a 'Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme' to connect the Indian academic and research and development (R&D) systems to the best of global science and scientists for a sustained international collaborative research. The scheme was launched recently on pilot basis for initial 3-4 years with a target of enrolling 50-75 VAJRA Faculty per year. Call for applications has been made open from the prospective researchers at this stage. The challenges, if any, faced by the Government shall be known only once the scheme is implemented fully for atleast one complete cycle.

(b) & (c): Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The Ministry of Science and Technology has structured policy frameworks to support international scientific and technological collaboration by building bilateral partnerships with selected countries across the globe, with the aim to provide value addition to various national programs and missions of the Government. The collaboration is promoted through various modes such as joint research projects; bilateral workshops and symposium; multi-institutional networked R&D projects; establishing virtual joint laboratories; training programs; fellowships and visitation programs for both Indian and foreign researchers and students; promoting academia-industry partnerships for industrial R&D on bilateral level. These propitious policies assist in promoting participation of NRIs and overseas scientific community in research and development in India.

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